

REMARKS

Claim 1 is pending in the application. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pearce. Claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The present invention is directed to the automatic isolation of a node port in a loop network when the data transmission from a hub port to the corresponding node port has failed. When the failure occurs and the node port stops receiving data, the node port detects this condition and sends out loop failure initialization data in the form of Loop Initialization Primitive (LIP) F8 ordered sets to the hub port. A loop initialization data detect circuit in the hub port detects when LIP F8 ordered sets are being received at the hub port. When LIP F8 ordered sets are received, a switch in the hub port bypasses the failed node port.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Pearce. With the amendment to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that each node port sends failure initialization data in the form of Loop Initialization Primitive (LIP) F8 ordered sets back to its corresponding hub port upon detecting a failure in data being received by the node port, and that each hub port includes an error detecting portion which detects LIP F8 ordered sets received from its corresponding node port. In other words, when a node port detects an error in its receive data, it sends out LIP F8 ordered sets which are detected in the hub port.

Pearce fails to disclose, teach or suggest that when a node port detects an error in its receive data, it sends out LIP F8 ordered sets which are detected in the hub port, as recited in amended claim 1. Referring to FIG. 1 of Pearce, Pearce only discloses monitoring the path from the end station 21 to the bypass switch 6 for parameters such as clock speed, signal level, and jitter (see col. 4 lines 15-28). In other words, Pearce detects errors by measuring physical signal changes in the path, not LIP F8 ordered sets that were transmitted as a result of detecting a failure at the end stations. Because only physical signal changes are detected, the end stations in Pearce do not

generate LIP F8 ordered sets, and the monitoring units do not detect LIP F8 ordered sets. In contrast, the node ports in the present invention as recited in claim 1 generate LIP F8 ordered sets as a result of detecting a failure, and these LIP F8 ordered sets are thereafter detected by the hub ports.

Because Pearce fails to disclose, teach or suggest (1) a node port that detects an error in its receive data and sends out LIP F8 ordered sets, and (2) a hub port that detects the LIP F8 ordered sets, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pearce has been overcome.

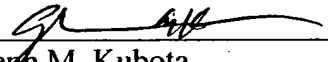
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5752 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 491442007511.

Dated: May 16, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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